



MINUTES

-Draft

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 6/18/03

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Andrew Singlelakis, NRPC
Jay Minkarah, Town of Merrimack
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Planning
Paul Yeoman, City of Nashua
Bruce Barry, Town of Amherst
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford
John Cashell, Town of Hudson
Dave Szczublewski, NH DOT-Planning
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Mark Archambault, NRPC Senior Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner

Others Present: Ray Guarino, NRPC Transportation Planner
Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Steve Heuchert, NRPC Senior Planner

Document Handouts

The draft version of the Transit Plan for the Nashua Region was passed around for those that did not receive a copy in the mail.

Meeting Opened and review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Steve Williams at 3:04 pm. Williams asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 4/16/03 meeting. Bill Parker moved to accept the minutes and John Cashell seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Budget Update

Andrew Singelakis informed the Committee that the planning contract (air quality, modeling, etc.) to run the MPO has been delayed by the Governor's office. Federal law states that this funding is for planning only and cannot be used for construction or maintenance of roads and that the planning process must take place or projects cannot move forward into construction. Singelakis stated that if the planning contract was not approved by the Executive Council by the end of June, NRPC would suspend its transportation planning activities until such time as it was approved.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Applications

Williams stated that applications were mailed to communities in late March. Electronic copies of the instructions and applications will be available on the NRPC web-site. All applications will be due July 31, 2003. All CMAQ projects will require an air quality analysis.



Draft Regional Transit Plan

Camille Pattison stated that the draft was now ready for public comment and 3-4 meetings would take place in July and August. The meetings would hopefully receive input from public housing and the Latino community. Camille gave a brief overview of the document. In chapter two it should be noted that according to the 2000 census the region is considered a small urbanized area. It is anticipated that when the 2010 census is completed, the region will be considered a large urbanized area. Capital expense funding will still be available but not operating costs. Securing dedicated funding for post 2011 will be a primary importance in the next few years. Chapter three indicates that ridership increased at twice the rate of population growth.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

Jay Minkarah stated that the plan seemed to him to be a plan for the Nashua Transit System and not the whole region. The document lacks discussion on commuter transit including rail, van pools, and buses to the Boston area. He also noted there was a lack of employment destination and long range planning for economic/employment development.

Steve Williams added that he thought that it would be impossible to shift moderate/high income drivers out of their cars locally but they would be more likely to use commuter transit in a long, expensive and congested commute to work.

John Cashell observed that the population was too low to have a convenience based transit system as opposed to a needs based system.

Becky Ohler would like to see long range goals addressed in the Plan.

John Cashell felt strongly that transit is the building block for economy and employment.

Steve Heuchert felt that a one stop shopping approach should be undertaken from the beginning to the end of a bus trip. Information on schedule and connections should be readily available.

Steve Williams indicated that this concept is a part of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project that has just begun. Transit sections will be available on the NRPC and community websites, the Transit Center and bus shelters. Steve said that we will still accept comments from the TTAC Committee but would like to be prepared to formally adopt the Plan at the September meeting and make a recommendation to the NRPC Commission to adopt the Plan.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2003 at 3 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.